

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION  
COUNCIL MEETING

The Waterfalls Club  
Rabun County  
June 26, 2014

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, June 26, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at The Waterfalls Club in Clayton, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by Rabun County.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Sam Norton called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. Rabun County Commission Chairman Greg James welcomed everyone to The Waterfalls Club and to Rabun County. Mr. James recognized from Rabun County Linda Ramey, Human Resource Officer; Sally Keener, Accounts Payable Clerk; Debbie Jacobs, Chief Financial Officer; Debbie Brown, Assistant CFO; Alan Stockton, County Attorney; Jim Bleckley, County Administrator; and Margaret Dunn, Civic Center Coordinator. Mr. James thanked the ladies for putting this meeting together.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman Dean Scarborough recognized special guests Representative Dan Gazaway, Tate O'Rourke, Aide for Sen. Isakson's Office; Haley Chafin, Intern with Miles, Patterson, Hansford, Tallant, LLC; and Jeff Simmons, Quantum Spatial.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

L.J. Harrison, GMRC Chaplain, gave our devotion, invocation, and followed with the pledge of allegiance.

PROGRAM

Executive Director Danny Lewis introduced our speaker Mr. Bayne Smith. Since 2011, Mr. Smith has served as the Department of Transportation's District Engineer for 21 counties in Northeast Georgia and is responsible for preconstruction, construction, maintenance and overall operation of 2,300 centerline miles of state routes and interstates in this area. In 2013, he was named the Field Districts Director supervising work in the seven District Offices or Regional Offices across the State.

Mr. Smith spoke to the audience regarding the transportation funding situation and what DOT is doing and where they are going. Transportation funds come primarily from the Federal Government and from the motor vehicle fuel tax. Mr. Smith explained how funds are distributed and spent. For example, when building roads, 80% Federal funds and 20% motor vehicle fuel tax is used. To conserve funds when the crisis on transportation planning funds took place, DOT reduced their staff at the district office by 30% and closed two of the district offices. Now

more projects are contracted out. Mr. Smith also gave an update on local road and bridge projects that are going on in our region and how DOT is cutting expenses but at the same time operating more efficiently.

Mr. Smith answered transportation questions from the audience.

### CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Norton asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the May 29, 2014 meeting. Doug Wayne made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Jim Conley. Motion carried unanimously.

### REPORTS

#### Chairman's Report

Chairman Norton discussed with the Council the Attendance Policy that is covered in the GMRC Bylaws. The Bylaws state that if a Council Member misses three consecutive meetings; they are removed from the Council. The Bylaws were amended to allow a Council Member to send someone as their proxy to the meetings to avoid being counted absent. The Chairman encouraged the Council, if they were unable to attend to get someone to attend in their place.

The Chairman thanked the city members that were able to be on stage, along with GMRC Executive Director, to accept the "Organization of Ethics" award at the GMA Conference in Savannah.

#### Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis thanked Rabun County for previously hosting the Workforce Development (WD) Job Fair at the Civic Center. John Phillips and WD staff did a great job of putting this event together. It was highly successful and well attended.

Mr. Lewis reported that Franklin County Economic Development Director Lyn Allen will be retiring later this year. She has been very instrumental in our entire region and will be truly missed.

#### Financial Report

Becky Sievers, Director of Finance, presented the Financial Reports for April and May. The Cash Position as of April 30, 2014 showed a bank balance of \$628,505, receivables of \$226,714 and payables of \$275,933, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$579,933. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2013 – April 30, 2014 indicated the Actual Revenue Income of \$3,806,834, Expenditures of \$3,667,991, with 83 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. Jim Conley made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by L.J. Harrison. Motion carried unanimously.

The Cash Position as of May 31, 2014 showed a bank balance of \$612,578, receivables of \$309,276 and payables of \$268,492, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$653,362. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2013 – May 31, 2014 indicated the Actual Revenue Income of \$4,191,199, Expenditures of \$4,041,830, with 92 percent of the budget being

expended for the fiscal year. Leslie George made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Bill Chafin. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Accounting Software Purchase Update

Ms. Sievers thanked the Council for approving the purchase of the new Accounting Software. It was previously thought that the Council would have to approve an amendment to the 2014 Budget for the allocation of funds for this purchase from the current budget, but GMRC received notification from the Governor's Office that Workforce Development would pay 78% of the invoice, so this action was no longer needed.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### 2015 Aerial Photography/LiDAR Project

Faith Bryan, Director of Information Services referred to the Map and Cost Spreadsheet in the Council packet. In March 2013, discussion was started for a consortium effort for aerial photography in our region. There was a lot of interest but it was suggested to postpone flying until 2015 season to allow the counties time to better prepare for this project in their budget. In January 2014, another meeting was held with 26 interested counties. A RFP was prepared and sent out to the vendors in March. Six proposals were received. A review committee (made up of representatives from seven participant counties) reviewed these proposals. The decision was not based solely on price. Experience and qualification were major factors in their consideration. The three top vendors were asked to make a presentation on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Vendors addressed concerns and answered questions that the Committee had. A follow up conference call was held with project participants on June 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss vendors' response to some additional questions. With an unanimous decision, the committee chose Quantum Spatial as the vendor. Ms. Bryan introduced Jeff Simmons with Quantum Spatial. Quantum Spatial has done numerous State, Federal, and local projects and they will be teaming with Pictometry to acquire the oblique photography that some of the counties are interest in obtaining.

Chairman Norton asked the Council for consideration of this contract. Tray Hicks made a motion to approve the contract with Quantum Spatial and was seconded by Ken Schubring. Motion carried unanimously.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Private Sector Appointments for 2014-15

According to the Bylaws, the GMRC Private Sector representatives should be reappointed each year. Chairman Norton stated that the Private Sector Representatives on the Council are some of the most active members. He was very pleased that all representatives have agreed to serve for the upcoming year. These members are Leslie George, Banks; Charlie Auvermann, Dawson; Randall Toussaint, Forsyth; Gerald Voyles, Franklin; Ken Schubring, Habersham; Deborah Mack, Hall; Bill Chafin, Hart; J.B. Jones, Lumpkin; Doug Wayne, Rabun; L.J. Harrison, Stephens; David Stovall, Towns; Mitch Griggs, Union; and Bill Black, White. Chairman Norton asked that the Council ratify the appointment of these Council Members. Motion was made by Dean Scarborough and seconded by Bill Myers. Motion carried unanimously.

### ANNOUCEMENTS

The July meeting will be held at the Bryon Herbert Reece Farm in Union County.

### DOOR PRIZES

Union County provided a number of door prizes that were given away to the lucky winners.

### ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



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Sam Norton, Chairman



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George Wangemann, Secretary

**GMRC COUNCIL  
ATTENDANCE SHEET  
2013-2014**

Page 1

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/25/13	8/29/13	9/26/13	10/10/13	11/21/13	12/6/13*	1/30/14	2/27/14	3/27/14	4/27/14	5/29/14	6/26/14
BANKS	Danny Maxwell	P	A	P	A	A	P	Cancelled due to Inclement Weather	P	P	A	P	P
	Jerry Payne	P	P	P	A	P	P		P	P	P	A	P
	Leslie George	P	P	P	P	P	P		P (R)	P	P (R)	P	P
DAWSON	Mike Berg	P	A	P	A	A	P		P	P	A	P	A
	James Grogan	P	A	A	P (R)	P	P		P	P	P	P	P
	Charlie Auvermann	A	P	P	P	P	A		P	P	P	P	P
FORSYTH	Brian Tam	P	P (R)	P	P	P (R)	P (R)		A	P	P (R)	P	P (R)
	Ralph Perry	P	A	P	P	A	P		A	A	P	P	P
	Randal Toussaint	(N) P	P	A	A	P	A		A	P	A	P	A
FRANKLIN	David Strickland	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	P	P
	Ralph Owens	P	P (R)	P	A	P	P		P (R)	P	P	A	P
	Ralph Voyles	P	P	P	A	P	P		P	A	P	P (R)	P
HABERSHAM	Gerald Voyles	P	P	P	A	P	P		A	P	A	A	P (R)
	Sonny James	P	P	P	A	P	P		P	P	P	A	P
	Audrey Turner	P	P	P	A	P	P		P	P	A	P	P
HALL	Ken Schubring			(N) A	P	P	P		P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)	A
	Dick Mecum	P (R)	A	P	P	A	P (R)		P	P	A	P	P
	George Wangemann***	P	P	P	A	A	A		P	P	A	P	P
HART	Deborah Mack	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	A	P	P	P
	Bill Myers	P	P	P	A	P	P		P	P	A	P	P
	Tray Hicks	P	P	A	A	P	A		P (R)	P	P	P (R)	P
LUMPKIN	Bill Chafin	P	A	P	P	P	A		A	P	P	A	P
	Chris Dockery	P	P (R)	P	A	P	P		A	P	P	P	A
	Sam Norton *	P	P	P	A	P	P		P	P	P	P	P
	J.B. Jones	P	A	P	P	A	P		P	E	A	A	P

December is not an official business meeting - Attendance is not counted

**GMRC COUNCIL  
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Page 2

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RABUN	Greg James	(N) R	A	P (R)	P (R)	A	P		P	P	A	P	P
	Debbie Chisholm	P	P	A	A	P	P		P	A	P	A	P (R)
	Douglas Wayne	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	P (R)	P
	Dean Scarborough**	P	P	P	A	A	P		P	P	A	P	P
STEPHENS	Jeanette Jamieson								(N) A	P	A	A	P (R)
	L.J. Harrison	P	P	P	A	P	P		P	P	A	P	P
	Bill Kendall	P	P (R)	P	P (R)	P	P		A	P	P	P (R)	P
	Joan Crothers									(N) A	P	A	P
TOWNS	David Stovall	P	P	P	P	P	A		A	P	A	A	P
	Lamar Paris	P	A	P	A	P	P		A	P	P	P	A
	Jim Conley	P	P	P	A	P	P		P	P	P	P	P
	Mitch Griggs	P	P	A	P	P	P		A	P	P	P	P
WHITE	Travis Turner	P	A	P (R)	A	P (R)	A		P (R)	P	P (R)	P (R)	P
	Annie Sutton	P	P	P	P	A	P		A	A	P	P	P (R)
	Bill Black	P	P	A	P (R)	A	P		A	P	P	A	P
	Rex Farmer	P	P	P	P	A	P		P	P	P	P	P
GOV APPT.	Paul Kreager	P	P	P	A	P	P		A	A	P	P	A
	Will Wade	A	P	P	A	P	A		P	A	P	P	A
	Larry Miller					P (N)	P		P	P	P	P	P
	Peter Hill	P	A	P	P	P	A		P	A	P	P	A

N = NEW MEMBER

E = EXCUSED

V = VACANCY

R = REPRESENTED

A = ABSENT

P = PRESENT

\* Chairman  
\*\* Vice Chairman  
\*\*\* Secretary